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*Food that's in  
when school is out!*



*Schools can help...*

**The Summer  
Food Service  
Program  
for Children**



# Everyone Wins With Summer Food!

- Low-income children have nutritious meals and organized activities.
- Low-income parents stretch food dollars and have healthy recreation for their children.
- Food service workers have summer employment.
- The school receives Federal money to carry out the program.

## What is the summer food program?

The Summer Food Service Program for Children is a federally funded program operated nationally by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered at the State level by a State agency. The agency reimburses sponsors (such as schools) for meals served at approved feeding sites in low-income areas to children 18 years and under.

## How does the summer food program differ from the school lunch program?

If you have an academic summer school program, you should continue to participate in school lunch and breakfast. However, the summer food program is ideal if you sponsor an enrichment, recreational, or activities program over the summer. The summer food service reimbursement rate is higher than that for school lunch.



## Who can sponsor the summer food program?

Units of local government, camps, private nonprofit organizations, and *schools*.

## What is an approved feeding site?

A feeding site must be approved by the State agency as either an “open” or “enrolled” site.

An “open” site is one in which at least half the children in the area are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

An “enrolled” site is one in which at least half the children enrolled in the summer program are eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch.

## Who can receive meals at an approved feeding site?

All children 18 years of age or under are eligible to receive free meals at an “open” site. Only enrolled children may eat at an “enrolled” site.

## How does my school apply to be a program sponsor?

Contact the State agency and complete an application form supplied by the agency.



## How are schools reimbursed for the meals served?

Forms documenting how many meals were served for the month must be submitted to the State agency. There is an administering and operating rate for each meal served. The sponsor will be reimbursed at that rate or for actual cost if less than the rate. The rates for the summer of 1998 are:

Administering Rate		Rural or Self-Prep	Urban or Vended
	lunch	\$0.2175	0.1800
	breakfast	0.1175	0.0925
	snacks	0.0600	0.0475
Operating Rate	All Sponsors		
	lunch	\$2.080	
	breakfast	1.190	
	snacks	0.4800	

## What type of meal service is required?

Meals must have the same meal components as school lunch and breakfast. Lunch and one other meal or snack may be served. Additional benefits are available for migrant sites.

## Does my school prepare the meals?

A school may serve as a sponsor and either prepare its own meals or contract with a vendor. A school may also serve as a vendor for another sponsor and not administer or supervise a feeding site.



***Make Summer a Nutritious and Healthy  
Experience for Lower Income Children***

## **Operate A Summer Food Program**

Around 14 million children depend on free or reduced-price school lunches and breakfasts for 9 months out of the year.

For many of those children, summer vacation does not mean "fun in the sun" but rather increased risk of hunger and developmental decline.

As educators, you may know that children who miss school breakfast and lunch are more likely to be sick, absent or tardy, disruptive in class, and inattentive. They also score lower on achievement tests. Good nutrition is essential for learning in school.

Learning does not end when school lets out. Neither does the need for good nutrition—which is crucial for children to have safe and productive summers.

The summer food program provides an opportunity to continue a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals. The summer food program helps lower income children return to school ready to learn.

### **What's the next step?**

Contact your State agency or the appropriate USDA regional office listed here:

#### **Mid-Atlantic 609-259-5025**

DC 202-576-7400  
DE 302-739-4676  
MD 410-767-0199  
NJ 609-984-0692  
PA 717-787-7698  
PR 787-754-0790  
VA 609-259-5050  
VI 340-774-9373  
WV 304-558-2708

#### **Midwest 312-353-6664**

IL 217-782-2491  
IN 317-232-0850  
MI 312-353-6673  
MN 612-296-6986  
OH 614-466-2945  
WI 608-267-9121

#### **Mountain Plains 303-844-0300**

CO 303-866-6661  
IA 515-281-5356  
KS 913-296-2276  
MO 573-751-6269  
MT 406-444-2505  
NE 402-471-3566  
ND 701-328-2294  
SD 605-773-3413  
UT 801-538-7513  
WY 307-777-7494

#### **Northeast 617-565-6370**

CT 860-638-4239  
ME 207-287-5315  
MA 617-388-3300 x498  
NH 603-271-3646  
NY 212-620-6307  
RI 401-277-4600 x2452  
VT 802-828-2447

#### **Southeast 404-562-1800**

AL 334-242-8225  
FL 904-488-7649  
GA 404-730-2612  
KY 502-573-4390  
MS 601-354-7015  
NC 919-733-2973  
SC 803-734-2800  
TN 615-313-4764

#### **Southwest 214-290-9800**

AR 501-682-8869  
LA 504-342-3720  
NM 505-827-9961  
OK 405-521-3327  
TX 512-483-3941

#### **Western 415-705-1310/04**

AK 907-465-8708  
AZ 602-542-8709  
CA 916-445-0850  
HI 808-733-8400  
ID 208-332-6820  
NV 702-687-9154  
OR 503-378-3579 x467

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